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Chin said a ranking China spy

By Pam McClintock

Larry Wu-tai Chin, a former CIA analyst accused of working as a spy for China for more than 30 years, was allegedly promoted in 1982 to deputy bureau chief of that country's intelligence service during a hanquet held in his honor in Peking.

Information about Mr. Chin's alleged position within China's Ministry of Public Security is contained in an indictment charging Mr. Chin, 63, with one count of conspiring to commit espionage. The charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury yesterday in Alexandria.

Mr. Chin was arrested last Friday on charges that he has allegedly received more than \$140,000 from Chinese intelligence agents in exchange for turning over secret information relating to the national defense of the United States.

The government alleges that Mr. Chin, who retired from the CIA in 1981, began spying for the Chinese in 1952 while working as an interpreter for the U.S. government during the Korean conflict.

Mr. Chin, who was born in Peking, allegedly provided information regarding the location of Chinese prisoners of war in Korea, according to the indictment.

From 1952 to 1981, Mr. Chin worked overseas and in the United States as a specialist for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, which monitors foreign public broadcasting and helps translate classified documents.

While in the CIA, Mr. Chin allegedly turned over classified documents and photographs to Chinese agents during clandestine meetings at locations outside the United States, including Hong Kong, Peking and Toronto, the indictment charged.

After leaving the CIA, Mr. Chin was said to have continued working as a spy while serving as a consultant to an arm of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

The indictment alleges that Mr. Chin met with Chinese agents as late as last spring, during a trip to Hong Kong.

Mr. Chin, who is being held without bond, is scheduled to appear today in U.S. District Court in Alexandria for a second detention hearing.